Hematology-2013
OMICS Group Conferences
Accelerating Scientific Discovery
International Conference on
Hematology & Blood Disorders
September 23-25, 2013 Raleigh, USA

North-American public cord blood banking projects

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Abstract

Umbilical cord blood is known to be a resource rich in stem cells. The value of stem cells in treating a number of human conditions has been recognized. Public health programs around the world recognize this valuable human byproduct and have begun investing time and resources into banking the cord blood of newborns in public registries, much like whole blood and platelet donations. Canada, Mexico, and United States of America are all on different paths leading to the establishment of public cord blood banks. This presentation will give an overview of umbilical cord blood banking, the current status of national cord blood donation programs in each of these three aforementioned nations, and the potential impact of cord blood banking, research, and therapy on hematologic disorders.

Biography

Brianne E. Kirkpatrick, MS, CGC is a certified genetic counselor currently working as a freelance writer in Harrisonburg, Virginia, USA. She received degrees in Biology and Religious Studies from Indiana University and a Master's Degree in Genetic Counseling from Northwestern University. Brianne's past experience includes seven years working as a prenatal genetic counselor at St. Vincent Maternal Fetal Medicine and Genetics in Indianapolis, Indiana and work with the NUgene DNA banking project at Northwestern University's Center for Genetic Medicine. She is an experienced presenter and an active member and volunteer with the National Society of Genetic Counselors. Her publications can be found in a variety of medical journals including the *Journal of Genetic Counseling* and *Clinical Dysmorphology*, as well as magazines and other resources written for the lay public. Brianne's special interests include genethics, stem cell biology, and umbilical cord blood banking.